



THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY
TO BEE
CULTURE

Established in 1861, at Washington, by the late Samuel Wagner.

“Behold! yon bord’ring fence of Sallow trees
Is fraught with flowers, the flowers are fraught with Bees;
The busy Bees, with soft and murmuring strain,
Invite to gentle sleep, the laboring swain.”

—VIRGIL.

“My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honey-comb which is
sweet to thy taste: so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul.”

—PROV. xxiv: 13.

VOLUME XIII. — 1877.

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Publication Office:

974 MADISON STREET,
(WEST SIDE)

CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS.



THOMAS G. NEWMAN AND SON,
PUBLISHERS.

For the American Bee Journal.

Honey in Frames.

I have been keeping bees for 7 years, and in that time have taken all my surplus in frames, and like it the best. The frames of my hive are 12 inches from front to rear, which I think a very good size. The frames for surplus honey are 12x6½ inches outside measure, and contain from 3½ to 4 lbs., according to the thickness of the comb. If I want to extract the honey, which I generally do, these small frames are very convenient, and can be removed and returned without disturbing the brood nest. If I wish to sell the honey in the comb, I find the small frames much more convenient than boxes. The bees are easily shaken and brushed off, while a good deal of skill and patience is required to get them out of boxes. Honey in such frames as I have described is easily handled, and sells very readily at good prices. If to be shipped, cases can be made which will hold the frames in such a position, and with such firmness that with careful handling there is no danger of injury to the combs.

I use no honey-board between the brood department and the frames for surplus honey. If I desire comb honey exclusively I would use a honey-board, as the queen would be less likely to deposit eggs in the upper story; but as I use the extractor largely, if a comb is blackened by having brood raised in it, no great harm is done. I frequently cut drone comb out of the frame in the brood chamber and put it into the small frames. It is better for the extractor than worker comb, as the honey is more easily thrown out of large cells than small ones.

When starting bees to work in the frames for surplus, it is important to give them two or more frames filled, or partially filled with comb. They are more likely in that case to build straight combs. While comb building it is necessary that they should be looked after occasionally as they will sometimes build from the bottom upward, and do very crooked work. I think Italian bees are more apt to begin at the bottom than black bees are. I do not wish to be understood as disparaging Italian bees. I think them much better, in more respects than one, than black bees; and I keep my Italians as pure as possible.

M. MAHIN.

Newcastle, Ind., Dec. 14, 1876.

For the American Bee Journal.

Important Points in the Construction of Bee Hives.

The farming community own most of the honey fields of our country; and the business of honey gathering and the management of the gatherers should be as simple and as clearly understood by them as possible. It is also desirable that it should be free from needless manipulation.

1. The shape of the hive is a question worthy of some consideration. A low, flat hive will not be as safe for wintering as a taller hive with narrower front, back and side boards. There is very little danger in the wintering of bees in hives, thus shaped, on their stands if only covered from wet.

2. A very important consideration with me is an arrangement of boxes for surplus

honey, of about 5 lbs. capacity each; 40 boxes in the aggregate, a little more or less at pleasure, placed in close connection with the body of the hive; each directly accessible to the bees.

3. With these boxes, placed early in the season, before the queen has made any arrangement for swarming, by preparing queen cells, they will give almost certain if not perfect security against the issuing of a swarm, and will in a good season give the 40 5-lb. surplus boxes full of surplus honey, more or less; depending upon the field and the season.

4. To be secure against swarming it will be requisite to have the colony of bees well shaded from the sun. Great heat, or the presence of enemies may drive them out, whatever room they may have for their operations or in whatever shape it may be.

5. This will not be a very heavy expense. Glass boxes will be paid for in the sale of the honey; 200 lbs. of honey would sell for from \$40 to \$50. If no market, it would be very convenient to have 200 lbs. of first-rate honey for use in the family.

6. The expense of this annual income would be for one colony of bees say \$8, and one hive say \$5, amounting to \$13. This whole expense is more than doubly paid the first year, and all the after products in coming years clear gain. To secure the fullest success let them send for THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and read it carefully.

Woodstock, Vt.

JASPER HAZEN.

For the American Bee Journal.

Chips from Sweet Home.

I lately had the pleasure of visiting the apiaries of Putman, at Galesburg, and Cramer and Kellogg, of Oneida, Ill. The former apiary consists of 80 or 90 hives, located in an orchard in the city of Galesburg. I saw a lot of his honey, which was choice white clover. His hives were very heavy and too full of honey for their future welfare. He has no slinger and in this he saw the need of one. He has also a lot of sections partly filled which should be emptied, the comb saved for spring. His hives and yard were neat. I found him a talkative gentleman willing to impart and receive knowledge. He thought "the disease" was caused by a draft of air through the hive in cold weather; but this is a mistake, for we had the disease in the cellar as well as outdoors, and hives all grades of ventilations. He winters out-doors, cuts off all upward ventilation, or rather wants to; in taking off his honey boxes, which were set next the frames, and then putting on the honey-board, he must necessarily leave open space around the top.

Friend Kellogg was not at home, but I found Cramer, found him a full match for me in talk, he is a live bee-keeper. His apiary, as also Kellogg's, showed care and attention. K's honey slinger is liked very much, but would prefer the Sweet Home; but his is a home-made one, and I think it a better one than any advertised. Kellogg and Cramer sling all their honey and find sale at good prices. In company with Cramer we visited several small bee-keepers, and next morning before daylight he kindly saw me on the train.

D. D. PALMER.

Mercer Co., Ill, Dec. 11, 1876.

Our Letter Box.

Wenham, Mass., Dec. 27, 1876.—“Our bees have not had a chance to fly for 6 weeks. They are wintering nicely. We have two feet of snow and splendid sleighing.”

H. ALLEY.

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 1, 1877.—“Bees did well in this section last season. I got nearly 100 lbs. per hive, besides increasing two to one, with the aid of comb foundation, which I shall use as long as I can get it.”

J. A. WATERHOUSE.

Santa Clara Co., Cal.—“One of the best and handiest smokers is a piece of decayed wood, sawed about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole bored lengthways. It can be held between the teeth.”

S. S. BUTLER, M. D.

Lenawee Co., Mich., Dec. 26, 1876.—“Bees did well the first part of last season, but after the middle of August they made no surplus. I commenced in the spring with 15 colonies in good condition, increased to 43, and have taken 1,600 lbs. of box honey and 300 lbs. of extracted. My bees are all in the cellar, and I keep the temperature at 35 deg.”

R. FORSYTH.

Henry Co., O., Jan. 1, 1877.—“I have 75 stands of bees. I have kept bees for 27 years. They are my delight. I expect to keep them as long as I live. I am much interested in those essays in the December number. I have read them, and intend to put in practice many valuable hints that I got from them.”

D. CLIFTON.

Pottawattamie Co., Kansas, Dec. 29, 1876.—“Last spring I had 36 good colonies, besides a few weak ones; I increased to 60. Although the 'hoppers devoured the buckwheat, I got 1,300 lbs. comb and 500 lbs. extracted honey, which I sold at from 20c. to 25c. per lb. California honey interfered with the sale some, but I will let them know that in Kansas we can produce superior honey as well as fruits, and supply them as cheaply as they dare. We shall make it lively for them soon.”

JACOB EMMONS.

A Chip from Sweet Home.—Dec. 21, 1876.—“I have 172 hives in my cellar; for several days one hive has been making considerable noise, and this morning much worse. Upon examination I found that they could not get any fresh air; it was closed top and bottom; upon opening, they rushed out as in summer, but soon returned and are now quiet. No smell of any disease as yet. Could have sold a thousand pounds more 'slung' honey at 15c. if I had had it.”

D. D. PALMER.

Northumberland, Pa., Dec. 26, 1876.—“I had 15 stands in the spring; 5, in good condition, went off, leaving from 30 to 40 lbs. of honey in each hive. The other 10 did well till July, but gave no surplus after that. I had to feed them; a thing I never had to do before. I had some in the cellar and some out-of-doors, but as the winter is severe, I expect to lose them. My great trouble is in springing.”

W. H. GARIHAN.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 26, 1876.—“My bees have done nobbly the past season, both in colonies and honey, and I am more than ever attached to them. Success to the A. B. J.”

MRS. WM. HARRIS.

Sanilac Co., Mich., Dec. 28, 1876.—“A neighbor purchased a few stocks of bees, but as the weather was cold, and they could not fly out after removal, he made a frame $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ ft., covered it with mosquito bar, placed a hive in it, in a warm room, and sent for me to assist him. In this way they all had a nice fly and settled back quietly in their hives. The past season was a poor one for honey. I have 60 colonies on their summer stands.”

J. ANDERSON.

Cass Co., Mo., Dec. 29, 1876.—“Last spring I had 72 stands, all wintered safely. I use the Langstroth hive. The bees swarmed considerable in June, and did not store much honey till August 1st. Then they stored honey fast till frost. I got 5,872 lbs. of extracted, 2,323 lbs. of box, and 1,055 lbs. of honey in frames; total, 9,050 lbs. From 72 colonies in the spring, I have now 120. I am wintering 54 on their summer stands. I drove stakes in the ground and packed flax around them in the sides and back, leaving the front open. The balance are in a cave or clamp, and are doing well.”

PAUL DUNKEN.

Shelby Co., Iowa, Nov. 3, 1876.—“Thinking that a report from this section might be acceptable, I inclose the following: Started in the spring of 1876 with 53 stands, mostly Italians. The season was good until the middle of August, at that time we had 2 or 3 cold days, followed by wet, rainy weather, which stopped work in boxes, and as the weather continued unfavorable until nearly the last of September, our fall harvest was almost a total failure. Still we feel that we ought not to complain at the season's result. We have taken over 1,600 lbs. of extracted and 1,100 lbs. of comb honey, and increased to 78 stands. Net proceeds, \$10 per stand. Our principal resources for honey are:—linden, sumach, wolf-berry, hearts'-ease, golden-rod and asters. We sell our honey at home, at 15c. per lb. for extracted, and 25c. per lb. for comb honey. Have kept bees here for 4 years; have never lost any by disease of any kind. We winter in a frost-proof cave. Success to the JOURNAL.”

MRS. EUNICE TRUMAN.

Knoxville, Iowa, Jan. 3, 1877.—“This has been a good season, but my bees have not done very well. Last season I wintered six on their summer stands, and now have ten wintering in the same way. I use a movable comb hive of my own 'get up.' I have had 62 lbs. of comb honey. They would not work well in boxes, and if I had an extractor I could have taken more honey from them. I have black bees but shall Italianize next year.”

J. W. BITTENBENDER.

Erie Co., Pa., Jan. 3, 1877.—“One year ago I wintered 44 colonies of bees on their summer stands, protected by boxing in chaff. The past summer I sold one ton of box honey, averaging 20 cts. per lb. I have increased to 87 strong stocks, and am wintering all on their summer stands. I never lost one by this method. I use the Ameri-

Surplus Honey.

READ BEEORE THE MICH. B. K. ASSOCIATION, DEC. 21, 1876.

The best method of obtaining surplus honey is probably yet unknown, but my experience is that I can get it better in small frames of from 1 to 4 lbs., than in any other way, and sell it too, for that matter; for we need offer only the nicest for sale, using the others, after extracting, as guides again. The best supers I have ever used are boxes without top or bottom, sitting directly on the ends of the frames below; the frames of all to hang on the upper edge of hive and boxes. These edges are made sharp by having frames touch each other at the ends for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and open between. We can put on another super, over or under, can make all tight with quilts, pieces of wood or leave open for ventilation. There should be a space of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch between upper and lower frames. The super should cover the hive completely and contain one or two division boards so that we can make the space large or small to suit circumstances, and directly over the brood nest. I have had three supers filled the past season on one hive; they were all kept on till Sept.; their weight is 140 lbs. It is necessary to have at least one guide-comb, reaching down to stepping distance, for the bees to climb up on; put this over the brood nest. My hives are 2 ft. long, 1 ft. wide, and $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep. My supers, 6 in. deep and covering the hive.

Ventilation has a good deal to do with surplus honey, especially box honey. Give plenty of ventilation, above as well as below, in very hot weather. But we should have strong colonies for comb honey, and keep them so. With black bees and my arrangement, I think there would be but few swarms to hinder. But I use those broad-banded, light colored Italians, and when they swarm, the queen drops on the grass; I pick her up in a cage; put her on the frames and let the bees return; then in the afternoon proceed to make a swarm, with this caged queen, from her own hive (but make it very small to save the queen) and the hive is still strong.

Now, in my experience this hive works better than if we left the queen* and cut off queen cells, for the bees work right along, but will fill the cells from which young bees hatch, until a young queen hatches; piping will then be heard. If the harvest is rather scant we must either cut off all but one of those cells, before piping is heard, or having heard it, take away every piping queen and leave a younger queen or cell. Then all will go on smoothly, and the filling of boxes will proceed.

As soon as the queen is accepted, and there are no rivals, the bees will unload the brood cells (for the expected eggs of their new queen) and carry the honey above to the supers; and if there is a chance, will clear a space as large as they need. This is just my experience with my yellow Alpine bees and small frames and supers.

Delhi, Mich.

J. L. DAVIS.

* There is an opposition to the old queen and they will sometimes kill her; she will not lay much better; take her away.

† In a full harvest they generally allow the first hatched queen to kill the others.

For the American Bee Journal. Answer to J. C. Newman.

The idea of preventing increase as given in the A. B. J., Nov., 1876! W. keeps his queens' wings clipped. I do not; the idea is new to me; will try it next season. I will answer you by giving the process again.

Prevent increase all we can by giving shade and plenty of surplus room. When they do swarm, turn the old hive so that the swarm will not enter it, but go into the new hive, which place close to the old one. You can give the swarm a comb from the old hive or not. After the swarm has got nicely to work and are satisfied, remove their empty frames with the starts they have made, which will do for other hives or for surplus boxes, and give them—the swarm—the contents of the old hive, viz: combs, bees, surplus boxes (minus queen cells), and remove old hive; which keep for another swarm. J. W. says they will go ahead and finish up boxes, and work as though nothing had happened. It is a little trouble, but tell us a better way?

D. D. PALMER.

For the American Bee Journal. Comb Foundations.

MR. NEWMAN:—In the Jan. number of the A. B. J., I see a couple of articles saying bees do not thin down and lengthen out cells in foundation comb. I disagree with the gentlemen, as I have specimens in my hives, where, on a single strip 3 in. wide, I have natural foundation as inserted, cells complete and capped cells partly built, and cells *thinned down*, so that they resemble tissue paper for thinness, and it plainly shows where the bees quit thinning and lengthening out cells. This is from foundation you sent me last summer.

The only fault I find is, it sags down in hot weather, making oval cells; and on the upper edge bees refuse to work on it where it has so stretched, except on *one side*, making crooked, irregular combs. I do not think it is pure beeswax.

This is a hard winter here for bees, and I think many will lose their stocks. Mine are all right yet, and throw off a great deal of moisture. I do not believe in cellar wintering, unless especially fitted up for the purpose. I am wintering in my workshop, packing hives in straw and chaff, without a fire in the building.

C. F. GREENING.

For the American Bee Journal. Guide Combs.

"Which are the best guides in the brood chamber?" is a question often asked. Bees will build on sharp edges of wood, well enough; and will build straight enough, but that is not all there is of it; we want straight worker comb. Bees, if left to themselves, build store combs at the top, in the corners and on the sides of square frames, no matter what guides are used; and it may be small or worker cells, and still not be fit to breed in on account of not being horizontal. What we want is regular brood combs throughout the frame, at will; in fact in all of the frames in the brood chamber. I will state how I get it.

Correspondence.

For the American Bee Journal. Introducing Queens.

Your correspondents (Dadant and Nellis) seem to have some controversy with regard to the best plan for introducing queens. I consider the plan of one just as good as the other, but in my opinion neither of them are worth knowing, as it takes too much time to introduce a queen in either case. There is no necessity of being over 10 minutes in introducing any queen after the hive has been made queenless, and it should not require over 20 minutes to "unqueen and requeen" any stock of bees. As a general thing, a queen can be "drummed" out in 5 or 10 minutes, but a hive that has an old queen will bother much longer sometimes.

No colony should be allowed to go queenless for even one day, for the sake of introducing another queen, when it can be done in 15 or 20 minutes with perfect safety. I would rather "drum" a queen out of any kind of a hive, if the colony is strong, than to open it and search the combs over. I can usually "drum" one out in half the time that it takes to remove the combs. In a Langstroth hive I remove the honey-board and force the bees up into the cap, and if the weather is warm, I turn them down in front of the hive and let them run in. I will not give my method of introducing here, as I think most of your readers, who have read the JOURNAL the past few years, know how it is done. My plan is successful 99 times out of 100.

While I am criticising to some extent, I would like to say a few words more. Mr. Wm. H. Kirk gives his plan for wintering his bees, and has been successful, and considers "wintering and springing very simple—long-winded orations, to the contrary notwithstanding!" Let those who write essays on wintering take the above hint. By the time one gets through reading one of those long "orations," he does not know where to find himself.

Directions for wintering bees should not occupy over one column in the A. B. J. Mr. K. meant business when he threw out that hint. I will wind off before this gets to be one of those long orations. H. ALLEY.
Wenham, Mass.

For the American Bee Journal. Ventilation.

In answer to a request, I will tell you what I know about ventilation. I use mostly Langstroth hives, and prefer the double portico; frame $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. long by 9 in. deep. When I have a swarm I ventilate according to the weather and size of swarm. If the weather is very warm and the swarm large, I may ventilate at both back and front entrances, which are each $\frac{3}{4}$ x 15 in. Sometimes I have two or more swarms together, and place on the surplus boxes at once, which gives additional ventilation, for the honey-board and boxes are not air tight. When two or more are hived together and you fear them leaving, cover the entrances with wire screens—a frame the size of the

portico with wire-cloth tacked on—and immediately place in cellar and darken for 1 or 2 days; don't leave in the hot sun, as I did one, for they will suffocate. For one swarm one entrance may be sufficient. The hive from which the swarm came may need a part of the entrance closed, especially if the weather should turn cool.

For spring and fall I close all back entrances and all of the front except 1 inch. When I place in the cellar for winter, I leave front entrance 1 in. open, and a little ventilation at top of hive for dampness to pass off, by raising honey-board or leaving some of the holes in it open. I have tried all grades of ventilation in cellar for wintering, but with little difference; only leave some open place at top. Where many are stored in a repository, they need some ventilation from without, and this needs to be regulated according to weather. I had a glass hive made 14 in. in diameter and 18 in. high, the top was dome-shaped, there being no open space except whole size of bottom, which I sat on a cheese-cover. I tried to hive 3 different swarms, one of which was quite small, but they would all rush out for air. I put combs in it, but it was of no use.
New Boston, Ill. D. D. PALMER.

For the American Bee Journal. Thoughts on Insurance and the National Association.

MR. EDITOR:—We are having a cold, dry winter in Southern Kentucky. The morning of Jan. 8th, the mercury stood 28 deg. below zero. I fear we shall have great loss of bees, as but few are protected; they have unhealthy food, for the greater part of the stores were gathered from honey-dew, and not capped over.

By the JOURNAL, I learn that President Andrews recommends bee-keepers to form county associations for the promotion of bee-culture. This is certainly a good idea, and if carried out, would be the means of disseminating a correct knowledge of bee-culture. We have a society here that has done much good; a great many bee owners, who knew nothing of the recent discoveries have become bee-keepers since the knowledge they obtained at the meetings of our society.

The beneficiary society, or mutual life insurance, that Pres. Andrews speaks of, is a move in the right direction, for if you want to make a man useful and successful in any business you must place a reward before him. Many who are engaged in bee-culture would be encouraged to prosecute it with more industry and hope, if they were assured that those depending on them would have a support when they are called from labor to refreshment. Here in Kentucky we have the Masonic Life Insurance Co., organized in 1868, with a president (who is also treasurer) with a salary of \$1,000 per annum; a secretary with a salary of \$1,500; a state agent, who gets 25 per cent on amount of policies taken; with sub-agents in every Congressional District in the State; and 14 directors who get no salary. The first 8 years the officers got no pay, as the company was not able to pay them, but it has now 3,900 members, and each member pays to the local agent and he to the society \$1.10, when notified of the death of a member. The local agent gets

For the American Bee Journal.

An Injustice.

I was quite sorry to see in the Secretary's report of the proceedings of the Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association, the statement that "the subject of 'Humbugs' brought out many severe criticisms on Mr. A. I. Root's method of doing business, from those present, it being claimed that he had misled more people and had been the cause of more failures than any other person in America." While such criticisms were pronounced, they were by no means the voice of the Convention, and it is but doing justice to Mr. Root and to some "of the members present" to say that there were strong remonstrances against such arraignment.

One may have his likes and dislikes; his opinions and prejudices; he may think another has injured him or his interests, but, in my opinion, it is entirely out of place to bring such personal matters into the discussions of a body like our State Bee-Keepers' Association, and it is equally out of place to introduce them into the report for the columns of the JOURNAL. Though I would not like to have it thought that I wish to lay claim to a knowledge of just how the duties of the officers of such associations should be performed, still I wish to state that I have been accustomed to think that, in the performance of all official work, strict impartiality should be preserved—that, in fact, the ability to pursue such a course should be ranked as one of the first and most essential qualifications for office.

I dislike to write on such a subject because Mr. Burch, the Secretary of the Mich. State B. K. Association, and I, have always been on the most friendly terms. But since the words above quoted appeared in the report of the Convention, without the "other side" of the matter, this explanation was called for.

FRANK BENTON.

[This article was written for the February number, but was unavoidably crowded out.—ED.]

For the American Bee Journal.

Comb Guides.

Take a Langstroth frame and lay it bottom up on a table before you; take a piece same size as top bar and lay it close by the top of your frame on the table; then take another bar same size and cut it so that it will fit inside of the frame. Place it so that the edge will come to the middle of the frame, less 1-16 of an inch. Press bar No. 2 close against the frame (laying flat on the table), then take bar No. 3 (called top bar) and place it on the frame and bar No. 2 and let the edge come to the middle of top bar of frames, less 1-16 of an inch, nail No. 3 on to No. 2. Have melted wax ready; call No. 2 and 3 nailed together, the mould; wet the mould in soapy water—quite cool. Take the frame in the hand; put the mould on; hold it down with the thumb; elevate one end of the frame, and pour wax on the highest end; raise one end of the frame just so that the wax will run to the other end. The frame should be leaned to one side just to form a triangle gutter, or so that when the wax is poured in, it will stand thus—A. What is wanted is a streak of wax an inch

thick, where it is joined to the top bar, and hanging down from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. Make one and perhaps you can describe it better.

The bees will work the wax out and make comb of it, always straight. It does not cost half as much as wooden guides and is as good as a 2-inch strip of comb guide—artificial—while it is one-fourth cheaper and more easily put on. Have put on 600 in 10 hours.

W. B. RUSH.

New Orleans, Mar. 1, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Bee Hives.

MR. EDITOR:—I read your remarks on page 84, March number of the JOURNAL, concerning T. S. Bull's bee-hive. You say that it is not patented and we can criticize as much as we please. Here are a few questions: What is there new about it? What advantage has it over others, almost precisely like it, that have been used for years? What is there about it that is not or has not been patented? I am of the opinion that on some of its features there is still valid patents. The frames are no new thing; that they are hung on the rabbets is not new, and I think that a Vermont man has a patent claim on that part of it; the hanging of the bottom-board at the rear end is not new, and a nuisance any way. There is nothing new about the boxes, honey-board, etc., and in fact I fail to find anything new about it at all.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

For the American Bee Journal.

Dysentery.

HOW TO CURE IT, AND AT THE SAME TIME
TELL WHETHER A HIVE IS QUEEN-
LESS OR NOT.

Bees in this section have had considerable dysentery this winter. Friends Johnston, Waterhouse, and myself have cured ours by giving each swarm some water in little wooden cups, made of maple, by taking $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 in. cut out with a 2-in. centre-bit. Place one at the entrance of each hive and fill them with water, say once each week, if required. We have had them out of the cellar twice and gave them a good fly, and they are now all right. If we found any of the cups with but little or no water taken out, we took a piece of chalk and marked that stock, QUEENLESS.

The water keeps them quiet; when they are breeding fast, towards spring, they require a large amount of water for the young bees, and when they find it they seem quite contented. These wooden cups are very much cheaper and cleaner than sponges, and I think the bees like them better.

W. G. WALTON.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 19, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Chips from Sweet Home.

I have all the comb I want for starters; all I can well use. I watch all new swarms and take out nearly all drone comb. I use the Harbison sections and like them better than anything I ever saw. These sections hold from 2 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. I shall do but little

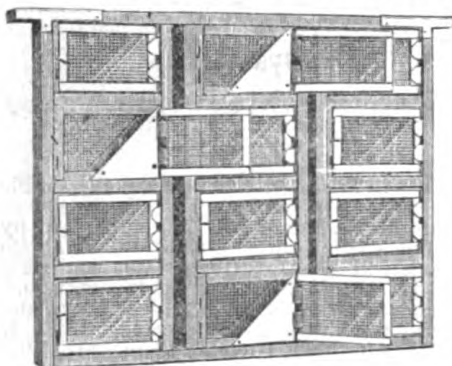
slinging in the busy time. In the fall I shall sling out more or less, depending upon price of either. Slung honey I sell at home—last season at 15c.; box honey, 20c. At those prices slung honey pays best, and so far I have had no trouble to dispose of all, although a good deal was traded for articles that I would otherwise have paid cash for. We are having a warm spell of weather for this month, from 30 to 50 deg. All bees in cellar, except 7, appear right—no disease. J. H. Thomas, of Brooklin, Canada, invented and patented a bee-house, similar to those much-talked-of now, 15 years ago; so the house apiary is not a new thing.

D. D. PALMER.

For the American Bee Journal.

How to Italianize Blacks, Introduce Queens, and make New Colonies.

MR. EDITOR:—Permit me to call the attention of your readers to the utility of the queen nursery in making the above changes in converting black bees into colonies of Italians. This we do by the use of the queen nursery, in the following manner:—Put into the cages of the nursery, between the tins, a few cells of sealed honey, in new comb if possible. Then cut from the combs of a pure Italian stock as many queen cells, large, and well developed, as you have prepared cages with the honey, as above. Suspend one of the cells in each of the cages.



QUEEN CAGES.

Good care should be taken to have the best cells, and not injured by bruising, handling or jarring. Having thus supplied each cage of the nursery with a queen cell and feed. The feed is thus supplied so the young queens will not starve if the bees do not feed them—a thing they often fail to do when there is a scarcity of honey in the flowers. The nursery cages so prepared are adjusted in the nursery frame. Then having removed a centre comb from a strong black colony, we place the queen nursery into the vacancy made by the removal of the comb, there to remain until the queens are hatched, which will be in 3 or 4 days, if the cells were not cut from the combs too early, or before the 9th day.

When the queens emerge from the cells, each cage containing a virgin queen is removed from the nursery frame and placed in one of the adjacent combs of the same colony, on either side of the nursery. The

cages are so placed in the combs by cutting out a piece among the brood just large enough to receive a cage in each. Now go to other colonies of black bees, and take out two combs filled with brood and honey, brushing off the bees back into their own hive, place them in a new hive far enough apart to receive another between them; open the nursery hive and lift out one of the combs with cage and virgin queen and all the adhering bees, and place it in the new hive, between the two combs thus prepared to receive it, immediately closing up this new hive. And so proceed until you have made as many new colonies as you have virgin queens in the cages. On the next day, near sundown, open the hives and liberate the queens. Before doing this, you can, however, spray the bees and queens with perfumed sweetened water, so that the bees will have something to do while their ladyships are going at liberty among them, but we deem this seldom necessary, except at times when the bees are not gathering honey liberally, and are cross.

These new colonies are built up into full strong ones by adding combs of brood from the black colonies, always brushing off the bees back into the old stands, so no strange bees will be added to the new ones, except the hatching brood, and these will not interfere with the queens. By the above it will be noticed that the virgin queens are not placed in jeopardy among strange bees, but are set at liberty among those with whom they are hatched, and being of the same scent are kindly treated. It should be noted that you must be careful never to introduce an old queen into the new colonies among the bees on the combs containing the caged virgin queens, or they may be killed when set at liberty. It should be further noted that the addition of brood combs are better made after the young queens are fertilized.

By so using the queen nursery the loss of many queens is avoided and many queen cells saved from destruction, and an apiary of black bees Italianized. The cages can be removed from the new colonies within two days after the queens are liberated from them. Notice while removing the cages that the queens are all safe.

Another plan is to liberate one virgin queen after another from the cages, as the one preceeding is fertilized and removed from the hive, until all are fertilized and introduced into new colonies. This plan requires more attention, and from my own experience I choose the first plan. It does not require the queens to be confined so long.

JEWELL DAVIS.

Charleston, Ill., March, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Life Insurance.

I am in favor of the insurance scheme, spoken of by Brother Wm. J. Andrews. I am in favor of insurance, and especially when so small a sum will assist the heirs of a member to so large an amount, as mentioned by Mr. Andrews. I took a life policy at the age of 27 years; it has cost me \$104.05; I am 34 years of age; dividends make it a little less than \$80 now. I consider that I have so much actually laid up in case of my death, which will certainly

is nothing to be compared to it. Like everything else, it came to an end. The sun gently lifted the fog, and then such a rush—the approach of a sudden shower would never produce as much commotion.

EFFECT OF A BEE STING.

In this same fall, while working among my bees, I was stung on the third finger of my hand. In an instant my whole hand was paralyzed. The comb I happened to hold in my hand dropped. The pain was severe; it was sore to the touch for three months, and for a whole year when the part was rubbed an unpleasant sensation was produced. I have kept bees for 20 years and have been stung in every part of the body, but never with such effect.

A BEE IN THE EAR.

One day while carrying a swarm of bees on my shoulder, up a steep hill, my foot slipped and I fell on one knee. The cap slipped to one side, so that the bees rushed out, and being close to my head, many were about my ears. One entered my ear and was trying to enter my head; with one finger I tried to remove her, but that made matters worse. I pulled off the abdomen, but the head and thorax entered my head. It was a terrible feeling, and I am satisfied no man could long stand it. I did not know what to do, but in the terrible situation I started for a doctor—happily, on the way the front part of the bee crawled out again.

TWO BEES ROBBING EACH OTHER.

One day in April, this year, I noticed one of my bees robbing another. They were of about equal strength. I at once changed stands, but the next day, to my surprise, I found the robber bees (now in the other hive) robbing their late home. I changed them several times, but always with the same result, and at last to my astonishment I found them robbing each other. I left them thus for two days, the excitement continually increasing. No pollen was gathered from flowers, all their energy was directed to robbing; they both had considerable honey, but it was nearly all used up during this excitement.

New Berlin, Pa.

R. B. OLDT.

For the American Bee Journal. Cyprian Bees.

Nearly all my visitors admire the beauty of the Cyprian bees. The queens are larger and more beautiful than any queens we ever saw. The drones are of a deep red or copper color, and when they mingle with the red workers they look nearly a blue color. All the bees when hatched look nearly white. The workers are very tapering, with six bands encircling their bodies; and at the side of them are two white, downy spots running lengthwise. Their superiority in working qualities cannot be over-estimated, as can be proved by dozens of visitors.

One hive (No. 7) swarmed five times naturally in 18 days; before it swarmed it gave 154 lbs. of surplus honey, and filled 9 Quinby frames of brood. The swarms have filled 58 frames of brood and given 192 lbs. of surplus up to date (Aug. 18); making in all 67 Quinby frames of brood and 346 lbs. of choice cap honey, which I sold to Adcock & Bro., of Macomb, Ill., at 20c. cash (\$66.20).

Then I reared and sold 12 queens for \$60, and sold 5 of the swarms, at \$10 each, to M. Brown, Industry, Ill., cash \$50. Making \$110 for queens and swarms. The grand total is \$179.20.

The Cyprian bees beat the world. I intend to sell my common stock at \$5 each, and leave none in my apiary. I have a pure gray queen from D. Staples, which is a beauty, and I have 3 Egyptian queens, bought of Mr. Ayres, of Springfield, Ill., which are very large.

The season now is better than I have seen it for many a year. Have taken from 125 colonies nearly 3,000 lbs., and expect 2,000 lbs. more.

My Cyprian bees will be at the McDonough Co., Ill., fair, Aug. 27th to Sept. 1st; and at our B. K. convention at Oquawka, Ill., Oct. 2nd.

HARDIN HAINES.

Vermont, Ill., Aug. 18, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

A Visit to an Illinois Bee-Keeper.

Being but a novice in bee-keeping, and by chance being slightly acquainted with Mr. D. D. Palmer, of Eliza township, Mercer Co., I made him a short visit on June 11th last, and found him busy with his apiary, consisting of about 130 stands of bees all in first-rate order, etc.

But as a little knowledge creates a desire to possess more, I took another trip to his place and found that his bees had increased to over 200 stands, and yet on Aug. 8th they gained bountifully. I found that the extractor had been used on 10 hives, from which he had taken 500 lbs. of honey of the purest quality. From the remainder he had taken 4,000 lbs. of box honey, most of it in boxes made up of sections. By the end of the season he will swell his amount of honey from 10,000 to 12,000 lbs. Let me say that everything pertaining to the business is done on strictly scientific principles. So much for the honey part. Mr. Palmer is also engaged in the cultivation of small fruits. He has a raspberry that is a seedling, which he has named "Sweet Home," that bids fair to outstrip all known varieties both in hardiness, size of berry, and unequalled productiveness. He is also planting many other varieties, as well as grapes, etc.

Mr. P. gave me the August number of the JOURNAL, in which I find an article from a Mr. Anderson, of Lawrence, Ill., in which he says, under date of July 9th, 1877, that in the spring he had 80 stocks of black bees and has doubled the number and taken 100 lbs. of white clover honey, and some stocks less than 10 days old had stored over 15 lbs. of honey in boxes.

The probability is that the whole swarm went into boxes when first hived. He winds up with a comparison with some black bees just over the fence, that had proved themselves inferior to his in every respect. I would just ask Mr. A. with much respect, where his bees are by the side of Mr. Palmer's?

On my first visit to Mr. P., I obtained of him two nuclei of Italian bees, and without any additional brood or anything else, they have each of them filled a hive containing 18 frames, 12 in. square in the clear, and will weigh more than 100 lbs. each.

In conclusion, permit me to say a few words in regard to a grape whose origin is in obscurity, as no traces of it can be found farther back than through the hands of two nurserymen, when all trace is wholly lost. I have handled it for 3 years and it has proved itself fully as hardy as the famous Concord, and much larger, as well as a far better grape than the Concord, and has, for the last 4 years, been fit for market on Aug. 13th. It will have an unbounded run, etc. This is the first that has been said of it outside of my own circle of friends.

C. HOTCHKISS.

Rock Island Co., Ill., Aug. 8, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal.

Bees and Red Clover.

As it seems to be doubted whether any bees do actually work on red clover, let me say that my bees do, and they are blacks. Two or three years ago a Mr. Coffield, living in Caledonia, 5 miles north of me, got a queen or two from Mr. Quinby, and my young queens seem to have met his drones; for stock hives that I know were common blacks now show from one to three bands, and are better dispositioned, but most of my stocks are black, and out of hundreds that I have seen on my common red clover, not one showed a yellow band. I heard of them working on it all spring and summer, but being very busy and hardly crediting what the children said, did not notice it myself till August 10th, when crossing a field of second crop. I found them all over gathering honey and a very dark amber-colored pollen. Mentioning it to my wife, she says positively she saw them on the first crop, too, which was very rank.

WM. CAM.

For the American Bee Journal.

Notes on Queen Rearing.

I have raised 75 queens since July 8th. I made a hive to hold 11 frames; put 3 division boards in it, which divide it into 4 apartments. The boards must fit close, so that the bees cannot pass, or they will all go together and save but one queen. Cut a small entrance on each side to give each apartment an entrance. In this way four queens can be fertilized in a colony at one time, just as successfully as I can in a nucleus, a rod from any other.

Take the queen from any colony desired to breed from; let it raise cells just as they are sealed over; slip in 3 division boards, cutting it into 4 apartments of 2 frames each. Let its 4 queens begin to lay; then 3 can be used and the colony be thrown together as before. This is the simplest plan for queen-rearing I have ever tried. By this plan 4 splendid queens can be raised in any colony at any time, and the colony not broken up, and can always be left in good condition. Two queens can be raised in one hive, just as easy, by fitting in a division-board and arranging the entrance block to make a small entrance at each side. Two will fertilize at same time.

I use Langstroth hives. Queen cells should always be raised under precisely natural circumstances, *i. e.*, just as they are in natural swarming, when honey is coming

in, the weather propitious, and colonies strong with workers. These conditions should be maintained through honey dearths, by feeding.

Novice's plan of moving an old colony, is very good for raising cells until we get all the nuclei we want. Cells from these nuclei may be grafted into 4 nucleus hives, when their young queens are removed, and in 10 or 15 days they will have 4 more young queens ready for use. A good queen may be raised with a few bees, in warm weather by concentrating their whole force on the cells, by putting in just some larvae. These plans are perfectly practicable. I have tested them after having had years of experience.

I want to answer a few questions: First, there are no black bees nearer than a mile of my apiary, and only 5 or 6 colonies within 3 or 4 miles of it, and 97 out of 100 queens fertilized in my apiary are pure, and perhaps a larger per cent. than this. I have 100 colonies, all pure Italians, carefully bred from the very best imported queens.

Those procuring queens should state whether they want light-colored ones or not; daughters of imported queens are nearly always dark. Newly-imported queens are always darker than American-bred. My imported bees have gathered double the amount of honey that others have.

JOHN ROOKER.

Noblesville, Ind.

Letter from Germany.

Enzheim, Alsace, July 20, 1877.—“MONS. T. G. NEWMAN: Dear Sir—I receive your BEE JOURNAL with pleasure. It is intensely interesting. I do not see how you can fill it so full of such very instructive matter.

“The year 1877 has been not very favorable to apiculture here. The crop of bees has been, so to speak, *nil*; that of honey is far below the average. Had it not been for the fine weather in June, our bees would have starved to death. The Society of Apiculture in Alsace is prosperous. It comprises 22 branches with 1600 members. It is beginning to spread itself in Lorraine—the adjoining province which Germany took from France in the late war, with this too. There two branches have already been started and several others have been formed. The organ of our Society is *L'Apiculteur Alsacien*. It will after the 1st of next January probably appear in both provinces, and languages—French and German.”

M. DEUNLER.

For the American Bee Journal.

Western Illinois B. K. Meeting.

The Western Illinois Bee-Keepers' Society will meet at Oquawka, Henderson Co., Ill., Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2nd and 3d, 1877. All persons interested in bees and honey are respectfully invited to come and bring any hive, extractor, or different kinds of bees and honey that they can.

Come and talk bees, and have a good time in general. Reduced rates at the hotels will probably be obtained.

HARDIN HAINES, Sec.

WM. M. KELLOGG, Pres.

Antrim, Minn., Sept. 2d, 1877.—“The September number of JOURNAL is received, filled with interesting articles from nearly all the States. Why do we not see reports from Florida, the land of flowers? Are there no *Uve* bee-keepers in that State? The fine dry weather here the past two months has been very favorable for bees in this part of the State, and though we have but little increase in swarms, considerable surplus honey has been gathered, of excellent quality. L. M. LINDLEY.

[There are several energetic bee-keepers in Florida, but there is room for many more.—ED.]

Brunswick, Germany, Aug. 20th, 1877.—“We have had in Germany up to this time a very poor season. I have fed from spring till now more than 1000 pounds of honey. On the 8th of August the most of my Blacks had scarce a single cell of honey. I removed on this day my colonies twenty miles from here to the heath, where buckwheat and the Erica vulgaris are now in full blossom. As the weather since that day was not very favorable I fear my bees are to day as hungry as on the 8th of August, and so it is possible that I may have some nests of mice in my stocks instead of honey, when I shall remove them homeward.”

C. J. H. GRAVENHORST.

Madison, Ind., Sept. 7, 1877.—“I find by reading the JOURNAL that the honey harvest has not been first-class this year. The honey harvest in this locality has been about half a crop. I have 21 colonies of Italians all in good condition. I use the Faulkner bee-house, and I like it very much, but I think his out-door hive is better for the extractor; the house is very handy for box honey, and good for wintering bees. I can sell extracted honey here for a better price than for box honey. I get 25c. per lb. for extracted, and 20c. for comb honey. So if extracted honey don't pay best, I would like to know? I can get more of the extracted than of the comb. I use the 6-lb and 3-lb glass boxes, and they are nicer.”

HENRY C. WHITE.

Lawrence, Ill., Sept. 10, 1877.—“Mr. C. Hotchkiss, in the Sept. number, page 318, asks—where my bees are, by the side of Mr. Palmer's? I did not intend to brag over my bees. My experience has been that when bees have the swarming fever, as mine had it this year, that they lay up but very little surplus honey. I imagine there is some difference between July 9th—the date of my letter—and Aug. 8th—the date of his visit. That month is the one in which Mr. Palmer got 4,000 lbs. of honey, and I got only 100. Up to Aug. 1st I got 1,000 lbs. of white clover honey, and for the next 3 weeks I only got about 150 lbs., for the reason that we had no rain from July 1st to Aug. 10th, the consequence was that everything suffered—my bees included. Since Aug. 10th they have done very well, but I shall only get 1800 lbs. in all, this year, and 1500 lbs. of that will be from my new swarms, as my old ones did but little besides swarming, and 5 of them swarmed out entirely, and I have just “brimstoned” them; the rest have plenty of bees and will winter all right.”

J. LEE ANDERSON.

Marshall, Ill., Sept. 12, 1877.—“My bees are doing finely, storing honey faster now than at any time during the season.”

N. B. DEVOL.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Aug. 28, 1877.—“Enclosed is a specimen of the greatest honey-producing plant in this part of the State. It never fails to yield a full supply, but is very strong and not altogether salable. For the benefit of the honey-producing interest, I wish you to tell me what it is, as I can find no one here that knows anything about it. My crop this year will reach 1,000 lbs. comb honey in sections.”

R. M. ANDERSON.

[It is *Eupatorium Serotinum*. It has no special common name, but is one of the 25 bone-sets or thorough-worts which are found east of the Mississippi. The bone-sets are all bee plants.—W. J. B.]

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 8, 1877.—“I have had a hard time with my bees since the honey season ended, owing principally to carelessness on my part. When the honey season was about over I had seven good nuclei; but one evening after looking at one of them I left some honey on the hive and forgot it; next day I looked at my hives I found all my young hives being robbed. I immediately stuffed a lot of new hay in front of the hives, but this not answering, I took some gum camphor and put around the entrances but that did not stop it. I then went through them taking away all the frames, the bees could not cover thick and closed up the entrances so that only one or two bees could enter at a time. Finally, I stopped the robbing, but they tore down several of my queen cells, and in several hives the queens were lost when they went out to meet the drones, so now I have my seven old hives and five young ones which are doing very well. I took nearly 300 lbs slung honey this year.”

N. T. HORTON.

Pike Co., Ky., Aug. 30, 1877.—“Being a reader of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and seeing nothing from this part of the State in your valuable paper, I will send a few items. Bees nearly all died last winter, what few remained have done well this summer, both in swarming and making honey. Early flowers are plenty here. The first are peach and apple blossoms, then the black locust (a very rich bloom). Our main blooms are poplar and linn, from these bees store honey very fast. We have but little white clover, but think it excellent for bees. Have tried alsike clover: bees work on it very well, but we want some kind of bloom that will come in about July 15th and continue until Aug. 15th—this being the time our bees are idle. I have tried buckwheat, but it does not seem to do much good. Bees work on it early in the morning, but as soon as the sun gets up they quit it. I shall try mellilot. I have had colonies make 80 lbs. of box honey, mostly from poplar and linn, this summer.”

JULIUS C. WILLIAMSON.

☛ The Jersey county, Ill., Agricultural Society will hold their tenth annual Fair, Oct. 9th to 12th, 1877.

Correspondence.

For the American Bee Journal. Chips From Sweet Home.

I dislike humbugs in any form, and more especially to swindle bee-keepers; not only out of their \$5, but the bother and vexation of breeding from an impure queen. Hardin Haines exhibited a one-comb nucleus which he said contained a Cyprian queen and Italian workers, except about one out of 20 to 40 which were Cyprian workers—these he could point out, but to all observers they were just like the balance of Italians, and as there were several hybrids there were no drones.

He told me finally that he could not show me any difference in markings, but that the Cyprians gathered more honey. He offered to send me a queen, agreeing that if she was not better than any queen I had, she should cost me nothing. I also told him if she was better I would give him double his price. If I receive her I will report in the JOURNAL exactly what she proves to be. Why do not some of his visitors report favorable of his Cyprians? I saw several bee-keepers who are acquainted with him, and they pronounce him and his Cyprians, a humbug.

You seem to think the glowing account on page 313 "great exaggerations of the facts." Bee-keepers, who ought to know, say that there are *no facts* even, in the statement. He may be posted in bee-culture, but the convention derived no new ideas from him.

D. D. PALMER.

Pres. W. B. K. Convention.

Eliza, Mercer Co., Ill., Oct. 6, 1877.

For the American Bee Journal. The Express Companies.

On April 18th, we sent by the United States Express Company, to Messrs. Tinklepaugh & Co., of Preston, Minn., to Cresco, Iowa, a colony of bees. Preston is about 20 miles distant from Cresco. On May 4th, Mr. Facey, of the firm of Tinklepaugh & Co., went to Cresco, and was answered by the Express agent, that no bees had arrived for them. Mr. Facey then wrote us from Cresco, urging us to send the bees without further delay. We sent word to the Express Company and on May 18th, Mr. Facey received a card from the Express agent of Cresco, that there were bees at his office waiting for him.

Mr. Facey went to Cresco the next morning and found the bees dead; they had starved. Of course we replaced the colony. Then we wrote to the Express Company, asking if they were ready to pay for the dead colony, at the sight of an affidavit of Mr. Facey, purporting that he had been answered on May 4th, that there were no bees for him at the Express office of Cresco. The superintendent of the Express Company answered that the letter of Mr. Facey, dated and stamped at Cresco on May 4th, together with his affidavit were not a sufficient evidence that he had presented himself to the Express office and that he was ready to follow suit from court to court, if we resolved to sue the Company.

On the 5th of August Messrs. Levy & Baker of the State of Louisiana received from us a box, in which we had sent them three queens. Every compartment of the box were opened carefully under a mosquito bar, but they contained only a few workers and no queens. Several persons were present at the opening of the boxes.

A week later Mr. Etienne Major, of the same State, received also a box of bees from us. This box contained only 11 workers, 3 dead and 8 alive, and no queens. The fact was corroborated by several persons. Of course these four queens had been stolen on the way. We happened to replace these queens, fastening the boxes with sealed strings, to make them robber proof; and we asked the American Express Company if they were ready to pay for these losses.

The Company did not answer our letter; but their agent replied verbally, that there can be no doubt that our queens were stolen; but that the Company does not guarantee against the death or escape of living animals.

Our queens have escaped from the boxes into the hives of one of the Express employes; but if we want to get the value of our losses, we have to incur the risks and annoyances of a law suit. We are resolved to try it. Yet both the Companies, which are so hard and so unjust towards us, have for years, gained several hundred dollars with our goods.

At several times before we have experienced similar losses; we have been, more than at one time, satisfied that our queens had been changed on their way to our astonishment; some times we have had queens missing; but never before had we encountered such a daring thief as the one who has stolen these four queens.

I will not speak of the queens and colonies killed by the Express agent. It would be a long and tedious list to read.

What is the use of these Express companies? They are a nuisance, like a fifth wheel to a wagon and a heavy one at that; with their Presidents, Vice-presidents, Superintendents, etc., who fill their purses without tendering a service equivalent for their high salaries.

In Europe there are no express companies. The railroad employes do the business. Suppose that you desire to bring with you some goods, when journeying by railroad; your goods, here, will be refused; because the railroad companies have made a compromise with the Express Company not to let the travelers bring with them any goods—their trunks excepted.

In Europe you arrive at the station with everything it pleases you to bring; you take your ticket, then your goods are weighed. You are entitled to 60 lbs free, you pay for the surplus, and your goods are delivered to you on your arrival.

Don't you think that the European system is better?

But here we cannot dispense with such encumbrances as the Express Company; the Fast Freight, the Red Line, the Star Line and several others; all taking good wages for small work. We cannot dispense with such nuisances as long as the railroads will be in the hands of *more than five hundred companies*; which, like the Express, have an *Etat-Major* of costly officers, who have little to do but to pocket our money. This brings me to the idea of the railroad reform, which consists in putting all the